



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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Citizens asked to sign the petition . . .

COMMISSIONERS ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO STOP MARYLAND IN-STATE TUITION BENEFITS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today agreed to join the Carroll County Board of Commissioners in encouraging citizens to sign a petition (www.mdpetitions.com) to overturn legislation which gives in-state college tuition benefits to illegal aliens.

A total of 35,000 petition signatures are needed by May 31 and 58,000 signatures by the end of June to put the issue on the fall 2012 ballot as a referendum.

Board President Blaine Young said, “A majority of the board sees this issue in terms of the cost to Frederick County citizens during very challenging economic conditions. The timing of this legislation is wrong and the inconsistencies are very wrong. For example, even spouses of those in our military don’t get this kind of consideration. We urge our citizens to act now and sign the bipartisan petition.”

The board is opposed to this legislation for the following reasons:

- The legislation will increase Maryland expenses, creating an even larger deficit when the state has an estimated structural deficit of \$1.5 billion for FY2012.
- Rewarding illegal behavior is wrong and provides an incentive to attract more illegal immigration.
- Citizens who have no such incentives for tuition will pay for people who are in the state illegally to go to college.
- Maryland taxpayers already pay over \$1 billion a year for K-12 education, medical expenses and incarceration due to illegal immigration.
- The legislation would increase the cost of education for families who obey the law and follow appropriate procedures, including legal immigrants.

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